

Issue 61 December 07 2018

Thornhill eneews



Dear Parents and Pupils

This term is always a very busy time for the teachers, parents and pupils. It is a time for us all to reflect on what has been achieved and whether these achievements are to our satisfaction. It is also a time of joy when we see how each child has developed and grown.

Looking back on the year, I can confidently say it has been challenging, rewarding and successful in all spheres. Schools do not function in isolation or in a vacuum. In order for schools, as organisations, to be successful, a team effort is required. It is in this vein that I would like to thank all our parents and friends of Thornhill for their continued support and all the extra effort put in, for both the children and the school.

To the Std 7 children who are leaving to take up the challenge of secondary school, my hope is that part of this special school goes with each and every single one of you. Make sure that you always continue to dream and reach for the stars. May your lives be exciting, wonderful and successful, and treasure your happy memories of life with the Thornhill family, as it is such a privilege. To the many parents leaving, we shall miss you too, and wish you well. Thank you for entrusting your children to us for these IMPORTANT years and for your support.

Pupil Achievement

Congratulations to Roelof Campher who was selected to captain the SCSA softball team to play their northern counterparts in Francistown. An excellent achievement, Roelof! Congratulations to Leatile Bakwena who has been selected to represent Botswana at the Taekwondo World Cadet Championship in the United States and Italy. A wonderful opportunity and an excellent achievement, Leatile.

Support for Learning

Maru-a-Pula School brought Melanie Hartgill, an Educational Psychologist from South Africa, to Botswana to speak to their new Form 1 parents. S4L were able to piggy back on this event and over 100 teachers and parents attended a talk by Melanie on Bullying, on 20 November.

When is teasing bullying? If you ask for the teasing to stop it will stop, if it doesn't stop, it is bullying. If you feel hurt from what is said or done then you feel bullied, this is as important as if you are actually being bullied.

The difference between telling tales and reporting? Telling tales means getting someone **into** trouble. Reporting means getting someone **out of** trouble.

Std 4 Assembly

The Std 4 children led the assembly to appreciate the Thornhill community, which included parents, staff and children, for their generosity towards enabling them to raise enough money to buy wheelchairs. Together with this, the children were able to pack various 'goodies' in a shoe box, which was covered neatly. The children stressed that, even though Thornhill is a small community, they realise that they are part of the global context and thus what they do, does have an impact on others. Each one of us can help relieve human suffering in one form or another. By donating the items to the children at Princess Marina Hospital, the children were of the notion that they value the ties that bind humanity. The spirit of BOTHO was clearly demonstrated, and it is in line with Botswana's motto, to be a proud and united nation that is just and compassionate for all.

Orientation Day

There was great excitement on the faces of the new Reception children, who arrived for the Class of 2019 Orientation Day. After saying goodbye to their parents, the new children moved to the Foundation hall to sing a few songs before going to spend a short time in the classroom, getting a feel of the new adventure they will soon be undertaking in the New Year. We look forward to getting to know the new children at the start of 2019.

Std 6 Poem by Mr Newbery

So, as we approach the end of our year,
We can hear our teachers getting ready to cheer.
Us sweet children, did we give them a hard time,
Was it us who drove them to call Lifeline?

We love Mr Chetty, he's simply the best,
Especially when he laughs, and he's always ready to jest.
Did you know he keeps pet snakes,
They have breakfast with him when he eats his cornflakes!

Then there is Mrs Makuyana, The Princess of Std 6,
Always there when we are in a fix!
She knows the secret of never growing old,
Known to have a heart of gold.

Mrs Whitfield dashes here and there,
She is the one with the highlighted hair!
She has taught us how maths can be fun,
Yet some of us still struggle with one plus one!

There is Mr Newbery, wow can he scream and shout,
He blames us for his hair falling out!
He is always threatening to walk out the door,
But we know he loves 6N more and more.

We studied, we swotted, we wrote CIE,
If we all get sixes, teachers have said holiday by the sea.
It's important that we all did our best,
As Cambridge is our first real educational test.

But Std 6 is not all work and no play,
Camp Tantebane was a great place to stay.
There we were taught how to put a worm on a hook,
Many of us caught a fish to take back and cook.

The obstacle course was great fun,
Taught us the value of teamwork, and the importance for all to act as one.
And at night when we closed our dormitory door,
We fell asleep to the sound of the infamous Mr Chetty Snore!

Yes, we will miss the year almost past,
I am sure our teachers wished it could last.
We hear that Mr Jogee and company cannot wait,
To welcome us all at the Std 7 gate.

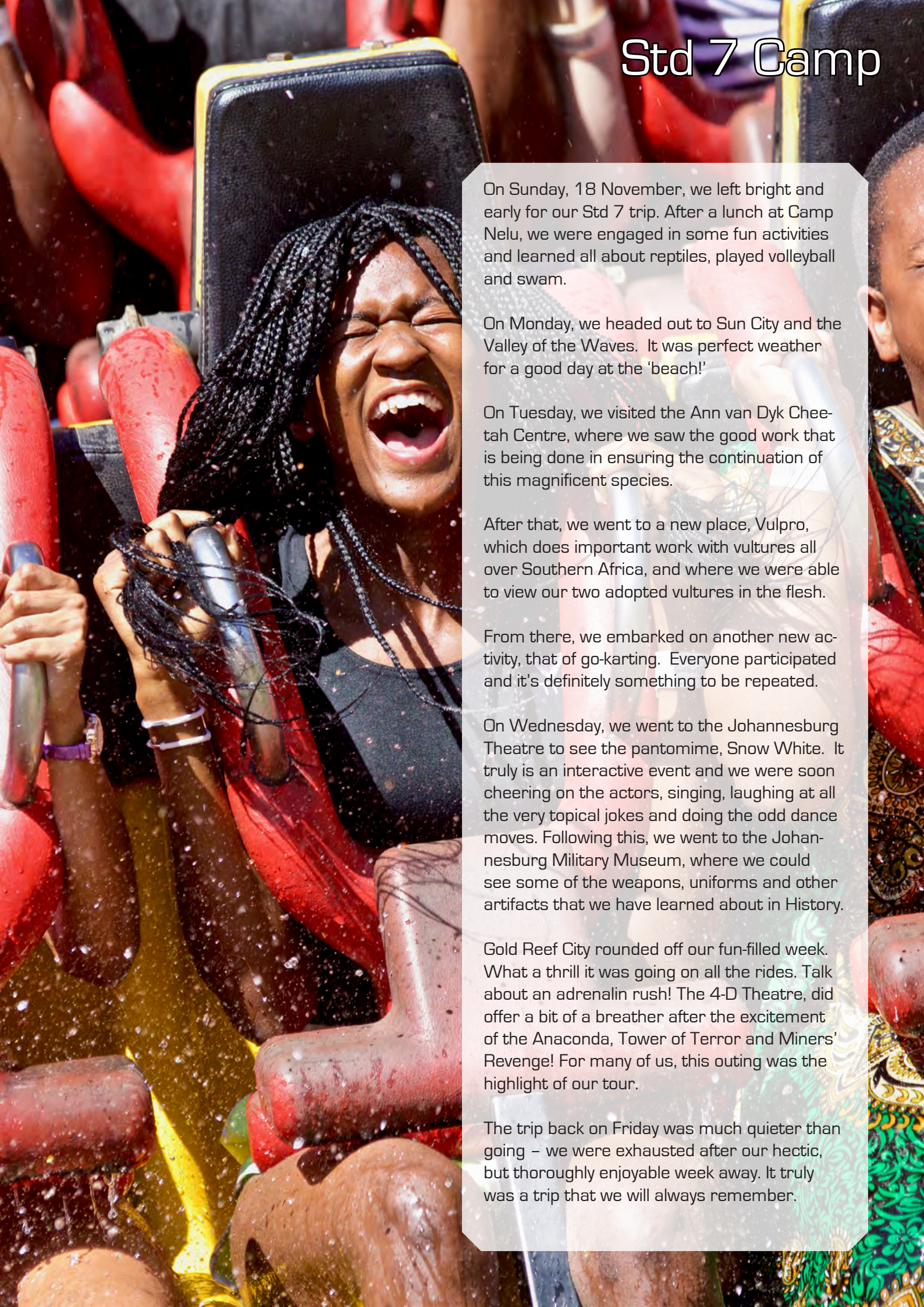
To some of our friends who are about to leave,
Do not forget what you set out to achieve.
Always be modest, and try your very best,
It is only then that you will pass the test.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my entire staff, whose support, dedication, commitment and innate nurturing of the children, makes Thornhill the school it is today. To all my Thornhill staff (academic, admin and estate) involved in this very special school, I thank you. It is, and will always be, a privilege working alongside you. I trust that you will all have a wonderful holiday and, if you are travelling, then do so safely. I look forward to seeing you all when school reopens on Wednesday, 16 January 2019.

I Greaves

Headteacher

Std 7 Camp



On Sunday, 18 November, we left bright and early for our Std 7 trip. After a lunch at Camp Nelu, we were engaged in some fun activities and learned all about reptiles, played volleyball and swam.

On Monday, we headed out to Sun City and the Valley of the Waves. It was perfect weather for a good day at the 'beach!'

On Tuesday, we visited the Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre, where we saw the good work that is being done in ensuring the continuation of this magnificent species.

After that, we went to a new place, Vulpro, which does important work with vultures all over Southern Africa, and where we were able to view our two adopted vultures in the flesh.

From there, we embarked on another new activity, that of go-karting. Everyone participated and it's definitely something to be repeated.

On Wednesday, we went to the Johannesburg Theatre to see the pantomime, Snow White. It truly is an interactive event and we were soon cheering on the actors, singing, laughing at all the very topical jokes and doing the odd dance moves. Following this, we went to the Johannesburg Military Museum, where we could see some of the weapons, uniforms and other artifacts that we have learned about in History.

Gold Reef City rounded off our fun-filled week. What a thrill it was going on all the rides. Talk about an adrenalin rush! The 4-D Theatre, did offer a bit of a breather after the excitement of the Anaconda, Tower of Terror and Miners' Revenge! For many of us, this outing was the highlight of our tour.

The trip back on Friday was much quieter than going – we were exhausted after our hectic, but thoroughly enjoyable week away. It truly was a trip that we will always remember.

Carols by Candlelight

A group of young girls, likely members of a school orchestra, are performing in front of the GICC. They are wearing white shirts and red Santa hats. The girls are playing violins and a cello. The background shows other people, some wearing blue pants, and a microphone stand.

This year the Carols by Candlelight was held in front of the GICC. It was packed and our guests were welcomed by th Thornhill Marimba Band.

Our orchestra, choir and ballet dancers also show cased their talent by playing, singing and dancing to some prepared Christmas songs. The Orchestra also comprised of some Thornhill parents and staff, who loved playing along and were brilliant.

There were also some Christmas readings in-between our performances with a nice Christmas message, 'Loving and sharing.'

Despite the strong winds and threaten- ing rain, all performances were brilliant and the audience too was awesome, as they sung along and cheered where necessary.

DELFL Ambassador

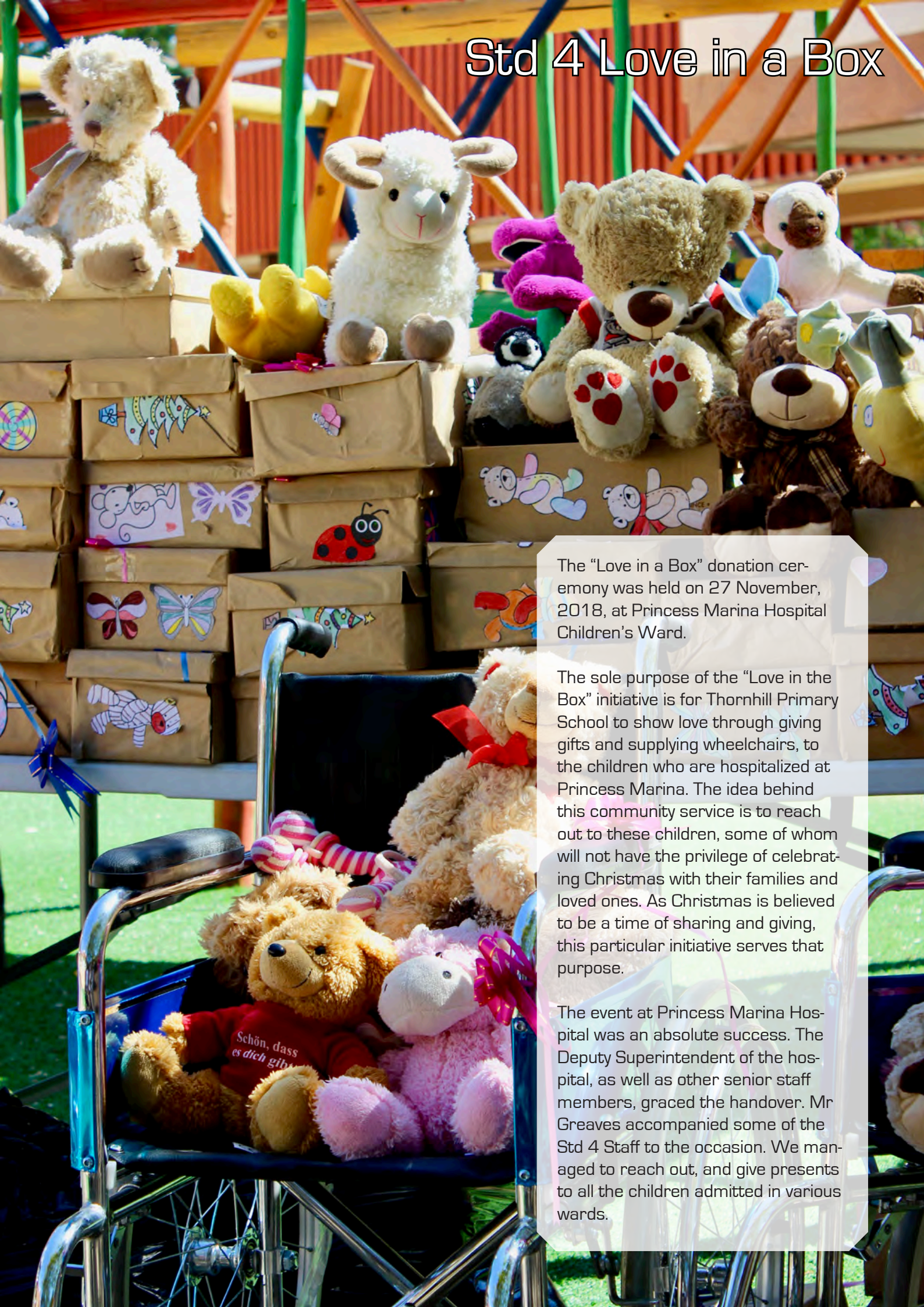


Learning a new language is not only limited to the benefit of the new language learnt – it also opens the doors to a new culture, way of life and people.

The students who took part in the French Delf exams learnt this reality when they received an invitation to meet and spend the morning with Botswana's Ambassador to France, Mr. Pierre Voillery, soon after writing their Delf exams. He congratulated and praised them for their interest and achievement in the language. They enjoyed a time of speeches, photos, snacks and games at his residence. This occasion was also graced by the Director of the Alliance Francaise, Madame Aurelie Gbeffa.

Well done to all those children who sat the DELFL examinations.

Std 4 Love in a Box



The “Love in a Box” donation ceremony was held on 27 November, 2018, at Princess Marina Hospital Children’s Ward.

The sole purpose of the “Love in the Box” initiative is for Thornhill Primary School to show love through giving gifts and supplying wheelchairs, to the children who are hospitalized at Princess Marina. The idea behind this community service is to reach out to these children, some of whom will not have the privilege of celebrating Christmas with their families and loved ones. As Christmas is believed to be a time of sharing and giving, this particular initiative serves that purpose.

The event at Princess Marina Hospital was an absolute success. The Deputy Superintendent of the hospital, as well as other senior staff members, graced the handover. Mr Greaves accompanied some of the Std 4 Staff to the occasion. We managed to reach out, and give presents to all the children admitted in various wards.

Foundation Nativity

The stage was set on a hot Tuesday evening in November. The lanterns and stars in the pool flickered magically in the dark, which set the scene for this wonderful evening. Our Foundation Phase children filled the pool deck, beautifully dressed in various costumes fitting for our Nativity entitled, 'Christmas around the World.'


Our audience was in awe with the children's beautiful singing. Our Std 2 cast and narrators, confidently told the Christmas story. Our little Reception children happily acted out the story and managed to keep up with the actions for our songs. The choir and orchestra did a sterling job singing and playing their instruments. Carmen from Reception amazed us with her recorder solo. Kaiyah serenaded us with her beautiful voice singing her solo. The Mums and Dads had their turns as well and did themselves and their excited children proud when they sang their Christmas carols.

Our ballerinas, Puleng, Kese and Naomi entertained us with their graceful dance to, 'Roo Roo the red nosed Kanga.' Mrs Schubert sang Silent Night in German, which was music to our ears. Her beautiful, clear voice added to the Christmas atmosphere and gave an extra sparkle to the already eventful evening. Mrs Schubert will be sorely missed next year.

After our Christmas play a collection was made towards the less fortunate children in Botswana and Mr Greaves expressed his thanks to the children for their amazing performance as well as the audience.



Std 6 Assembly

A group of students, mostly young women, are sitting on the floor in a room with yellow walls. They are wearing dark t-shirts and blue jeans. Some of the students have black face paint on their cheeks, resembling traditional African patterns. They are looking towards the left side of the frame, appearing to be listening or watching something. The lighting is warm and focused on the students.

The Std 6 assembly performed on Friday 30 November was the ideal opportunity to put across the message of how much fun they had during their Tantebane Camp trip and to show their other talents. The dance was a mixture of modern and traditional moves, in dispersed with some words of feeling about the fact that the C.I.E. exams were over!

The poem encompassed the feelings and enjoyment of the trip, which was supported by an excellent slide show. As with all productions big or small, people need to be thanked, and this was done by Siyanda of Std 6N who thanked the relevant people for giving up their time, and for having the patience to put together the dance routine which was supported by some delightful music.

Prize Giving



Congratulations, and well done to all the children who received awards at the annual Prize Giving. Your hard work, commitment and diligence paid just reward. The following pupils received major awards as follows:

- Sportsman of the Year: Leatile
- Sportswoman of the Year: Judith
- First in Std 6: Daniel
- Runner up to Dux: Aaliyah
- Dux Award: Michael
- Headmaster Award: Chloe
- Fellowship Award: Yusuf & Gabriella
- Bruce Blewett Award: Roelof

Std 4 Egypt Day



For this year's Ancient Egypt Day celebrations, the Std 4 classes created a mini Egypt, with an elaborate tomb set up in front of their classes. The 'Nile River' ran from the science laboratory to the edge of the library with shadufs and houses of farmers and wealthy Egyptians along the riverbank and boats in the river. The tomb showcased life-size coffins with mummies and beautifully decorated sarcophagi to represent a burial of the pharaohs and elite people of ancient Egypt. There were canopic jars placed along with the coffins as part of the mummification process.

The children learnt a vast amount of information and gained tremendous knowledge throughout the preparations for the day. This knowledge was shared with parents and other students who came to walk through 'Egypt'. It was pleasing to see the confidence and ease with which the children carried out their presentations. A dance, depicting ancient Egypt paintings not only provided entertainment, but also kept the parents actively involved, as they copied the moves and worked hard at their ancient Egyptian poses. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Poetry by Gabriella Kalayamoto

Gabriella recently shared her poetry at an assembly and this piece of work needs to be shared with you as parents.

*There are people who write poetry and
It leaves me speechless.*

I have no words.

But they do.

And I have the voice in my head that tells me too,

"Oh wow, you're crying like they are,

They made an impact, they're better than you, huh?"

And I have to be real with myself,

Of course, they are.

I'm thirteen and they are stars

While I'm a small particle floating in space.

Sometimes it feels like there's too much space in my

head and I need to fill it with

Something, anything.

But I have nothing.

So I try words, but they'll never be as good

As hers and I'll try hymns but they'll never

Be as good as his.

But didn't you write this?

What if someone's touched?

You made someone feel heard,

Like an entire galaxy.

If I say I don't care then I'm lying because

When I write I'm really trying,

Trying to turn my words into art

From the thoughts in my heart

Try to be a light in someone else's dark,

Try to be that spark

That others are to me.

Interhouse Gala


On Thursday, 29 November, we held our annual Inter House Gala. It was held under a different format this year with the whole gala taking place in the form of relays. This allowed a lot of children to be involved and the standard of swimming was very high.

All the houses supported their teams with much shouting and cheering. There was also wonderful support from all the parents.

Notwane ended as the overall champions with Shashe in second place, Limpopo in third and Chobe in fourth. Notwane also won the spirit trophy on the day and well done to all those who participated and entertained us.



Adega Softball U13 Girls



With the Std 7 children only just having returned from camp the day before, it was with quite a bit of trepidation that I awaited the girls arrival at Northside on Saturday, 24 November. Would they all turn up? Much to my amazement, everyone was there and geared up and ready to play. The Thornhill girls played superb softball, winning all their matches and proving what an extremely talented team they are. To all 'my' girls, I am so proud of you all and thank you for your effort and participation this year. **Mrs Smith**

vs TDS won 7 - 1
vs Northside won 7 - 2
vs Legae won 8 - 0

'The Adega Tournament was a great way to end our softball season. I had a lot of fun with the girls and thank you Mrs Smith for being an amazing coach that led us to victory.' **Rethabile**

'The Adega Tournament was an amazing way to end the term. We all had a lot of fun and had a great win. A big thank you to Mrs Smith for being the best coach ever and making us the great softball players we are today.' **Watapiwa**

'After a tough weekend up in the North, the Adega Tournament gave us a good opportunity to prove that we are the best U13 girls softball team there is. Without the hard work and effort of Mrs Smith and Mrs Tweed, this wouldn't be us, so a big thank you.' **Judith**

'We ended our softball season on a good note. As we have heard from many different schools, we are the best. As a member of this team I will miss my team dearly. We are all going our separate ways and I hope we will continue our softball passion.' **Tashatha**

'The Adega Tournament was so much fun and an amazing way to end the softball season. It was great spending time with the girls one last time. We would like to thank Mrs Smith and Mrs Tweed for a great softball season.' **Megan**

Adega Softball U13 Boys



A tired set of Std 7 softball boys arrived at the Adega tournament recently. After a slow start, which saw them lose their first fixture of the morning, they managed to pull it back and dig deep to win the next two, which left them tied on top with Broadhurst. However, the head on head match determined the result and Thornhill were placed second overall. Roelof was selected as the 'Best Batsman' of the tournament.

Well done to all the boys for an excellent season in which they proved to be a team to be reckoned with.

Our Thornhill boys who represented the SCSA team up in Francistown performed superbly and they were all key elements for the team. Again, Roelof received the 'Best Batsman' award at the tournament, which was won convincingly by the South.

Finally, the boys were invited to play a curtain raiser to Botswana versus South Africa this past weekend. They played against 'Re Ba Bona Ha' team from Maun and our boys again performed exceptionally well, winning this fixture.

It was a fantastic experience for them to play the curtain raiser on the national diamond, and then get to watch the international game. This is certainly a memory that will live with the boys forever.

CELEBRATING



**THORNHILL
PRIMARY**



December 07 2018
Thornhill ICT Department